
News Release

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Contact: Steve Lambert
(909) 841-7527
steve@the2020network.com



SCAG Receives Grant for Go Human Safety Program

The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) has been awarded a \$1.25 million grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) to fund continued work on its regional active transportation safety and encouragement program, *Go Human*.

Southern California has some of the highest levels of injuries and fatalities in the United States among pedestrians and bicyclists. Overall, an average of more than four people die every day in traffic collisions in the six-county SCAG region (Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura counties). People walking or riding bikes account for 27% of those deaths despite comprising only 12% of all trips. SCAG data shows that 70% of all collisions are on local roads.

SCAG launched the *Go Human* program in 2015, in an effort to reduce collisions, improve safety for people walking and biking and raise awareness of the importance of traffic safety.

“Active transportation is an essential part of our region’s long-term mobility plans. Providing safe options for walking and bicycling is critical to promoting social equity and healthy communities and ensuring the efficiency of our increasingly integrated transportation system,” said SCAG President Rex Richardson, a Long Beach City Councilmember.

The new OTS grant will fund continued *Go Human* activities through September 30, 2021 which include:

- *Go Human’s* Community Safety Ambassador Cohort Program, a participatory and experiential planning and leadership series
- Resilient Streets Strategies to implement street activations that address safety and resiliency in response to the pandemic
- Safety Mini-Grants, which fund local projects led by community-based organizations
- Sub-Regional Safety Peer Exchange Program, a series of community-informed virtual sessions for stakeholders and practitioners addressing traffic safety
- Co-Branded Safety Advertisements, print and digital graphics provided at no cost to jurisdictions who have committed to the *Go Human* Safety Pledge.

SCAG will continue to focus outreach efforts in collaboration with local elected officials, city staff and community-based organizations that serve communities disproportionately impacted by collisions.

These *Go Human* initiatives will help SCAG and its partners ensure that the streets of the region are safe for those who walk, bike and drive. Further, this funding from OTS enables *Go Human* to serve a greater

role in recovery and resiliency efforts amid the pandemic, especially for those most impacted. Guided by a holistic, equity-centered approach to safety, the Resilient Streets Strategies will encourage partners to utilize street space to support critical recovery efforts, and funding from the Safety Mini-Grants will support community-based organizations to implement neighborhood-level safety projects. Previous funding has supported “slow streets” activations in neighborhoods and commercial districts, bike repair services for essential workers, and alternative approaches to safety engagement campaigns.

“We must do everything we can to make our roadways safer for everyone. *Go Human* is an essential part of that equation,” said SCAG Executive Director Kome Ajise. “This additional funding will allow us to continue our work in making Southern California a national model for active transportation advocacy and implementation.”

Funding for this program is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

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About SCAG

SCAG is the nation’s largest metropolitan planning organization, representing six counties, 191 cities and more than 19 million residents. SCAG undertakes a variety of planning and policy initiatives to plan for a livable and sustainable Southern California now and in the future. For more information about SCAG, please visit: www.scag.ca.gov.